

ARIZONA GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION COUNCIL
(AGIC)

The next Board meeting will be held in PHOENIX on Thursday, September 7, 1995.
There will be NO lunchtime presentation prior to the Board meeting.

CALL TO ORDER - The Executive Management Board of the Arizona Geographic Information Council (AGIC) met on Thursday, July 6, 1995 in the large conference room on the basement floor (B1) of the Arizona Department of Revenue (ADOR) facility, located at 1600 W. Monroe, in Phoenix. The meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m. by Chris English, President of AGIC's Executive Management Board. Noting that a quorum had been established, Mr. English asked everyone to introduce themselves and thanked everyone for coming.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Steve Foley offered a motion in favor of accepting, as presented, the minutes for both the March 2 and May 4 Board meetings. Lee Dexter seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

BUDGET - Lynn Larson explained that her Accounting staff at the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD) had been too busy with year-end activities to prepare an updated budget summary, especially given that they were short three staff members. She did assure the Board, however, that AGIC was still operating in the black.

STRATEGIC PLAN - As part of his update on overall progress, Chris English acknowledged that, at his request, a Strategic Planning session would be conducted during the upcoming conference. He clarified that the intention was not to rewrite the entire Strategic Plan but to incorporate any changes that had occurred in the last three years and gather any additional input that might be helpful in fine-tuning the direction to be taken in the future. He said the conference session would include explanations of how the Strategic Plan was formed and its purpose. Presentations from the subcommittees would also be given. Anyone interested was encouraged to contact the applicable subcommittee chair(s) and get involved. Mr. English said organizers were trying to raise the profile of AGIC at this year's conference and were

considering having a separate booth for AGIC.

Administrative & Legal - Lynn Larson reminded everyone that funding for the three-person State Cartographer's Office had been approved, effective July 1. Ms. Larson said job descriptions had been drafted. The Human Resources (aka Personnel) section of Arizona's Department of Administration (ADOA) is currently involved in a massive reclassification project; so establishing official grades and salaries may take longer than in the past. Once the positions are officially established, however, recruitment can begin, starting with the top position. It is anticipated that the State Cartographer will be rated Grade 22 with a salary of \$36,000 to \$45,000 per year.

Restrictions on candidates have been lifted in conjunction with conversion to a resume scanning system. Consequently, Ms. Larson asked whether AGIC would like to proceed with a full-blown national advertising campaign or concentrate first on recruiting within the state (as suggested during the May Board meeting) and expand the effort later, if necessary. She indicated that Human Resources no longer issues job bulletins or places newspaper advertisements; so AGIC will probably want to do some sort of advertising on its own.

Don McTaggart suggested making people aware of the openings by putting an announcement on the "web." He said this approach would probably be more cost effective than advertising in trade publications. Others proposed advertising in local newspaper(s), announcing the openings on the internet, spreading the news by word of mouth, preparing single-sheet flyers to be copied and distributed by AGIC members, and providing copies of the official form that must accompany each resume. A cutoff date should also be communicated to help ensure that everyone gets their resumes in before Human Resources generates the final list.

The State Cartographer's Office will be housed within the same building as the State Land Department. The details are still being worked out.

Ms. Larson indicated that Governor Symington was very impressed with some three-dimensional images recently provided by Scott Hutchinson, Bill O'Sullivan-Kachel, and Gary Irish, of the Arizona Land Resource Information System (ALRIS).

Such projects provide an excellent opportunity to show legislative and Governor's Office staff how useful GIS can be in the performance of their jobs.

Data Resources - Gary Irish invited Rudy Stricklan, chair of the Geodetic Control working group, to give a presentation.

Mr. Stricklan indicated that this group, predominantly surveyors from various agency sectors when it first convened in September of 1993, has been endeavoring to put its recommendations into the desired report format.

The group is addressing not only the development of a data model and standards but user awareness and communications.

Some aspects are affected by federal activities. Standards, for example, must be consistent with guidelines being instituted by the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC). Metadata standards are now in place for data transfer.

The FGDC is promoting awareness of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) and participation in professional societies. A national framework has also been established for use in organizing fundamental themes.

With respect to data accumulation and access, the working group recommends designing a standard input form and having whoever produces data be responsible for maintaining the data. Members foresee a feature-oriented data base. AGIC could provide technical assistance, and the State Cartographer's Office could serve as a clearinghouse. Agencies involved, with their share of geodetic control, would be submitters to the clearinghouse node. Cost recovery, institutional roles, and other policy management issues would need to be resolved, but many nonproprietary themes would be publicly available.

The working group envisions implementation by the end of the decade. Before implementation can begin, however, updated information will need to be gathered regarding who has what where. Mr. Stricklan proposed keeping the Geodetic Control working group involved as an advisory group to assist in implementation. Anyone interested was invited to attend the group's next meeting, a lunchtime session on July 20 at Salt River Project.

Proceeding with discussion of the other working groups within the Data Resources subcommittee, Gary Irish announced that Dan Rader had resigned as chair of the Land Parcels and Administrative Boundaries group. He

said Jim Cristea and Randy Booze had agreed to co-chair the group on a temporary basis. Anyone interested in taking over this responsibility was asked to contact one of these two gentlemen or Gary Irish. Their telephone numbers are (602) 350-8200, (602) 644-3484, and (602) 542-2605, respectively.

Mr. Irish reported that a new chair was still being sought for the Transportation working group as well and that the Hydrography group was still working on Reach File 3 and was almost ready to call a group review meeting.

Education - Chris English said the Education and Information Exchange subcommittees were still busy with preparations for the MAGIC '95 conference.

He added that he had recently noticed an increase in Internet and facsimile transmissions, evidence that linkages were beginning to develop, and that the web site was up.

Information Exchange - Inseparable at this point, the subcommittee and MAGIC '95 conference preparations were covered in a combined report. Sally Lanier said early (\$80) registrations would be accepted through July 24. [This deadline was later extended through the end of July.] Those interested in staying overnight at Camelback Inn were advised to contact the hotel by July 20 to take advantage of the special rate being offered for conference attendees.

With the conference only 5 weeks away (August 14 and 15), Ms. Lanier said all major preparatory activities were in process. The agenda, featuring abstracts from members as well as participation by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), was being laid out and finalized, and registration materials were being mailed. As Chris English had indicated earlier, a strategic planning session was also being scheduled to allow everyone to provide comments on the draft plan.

Ms. Lanier stressed the need for everyone to help promote the conference and keep the momentum going. Vendor contacts proved to be a key to financial success for the first conference (MAGIC '93). Registration fees for that event were essentially consumed by the associated expenses. Had it not been for the fees paid by vendors exhibiting at the conference, there would have been very little, if any, seed money to set aside for this year's conference. Thus, everyone was asked to

promote participation and advised to refer requests for additional registration forms to Marian Arnold or Michael Collins and relay any additional vendor contacts to Scott Hutchinson, all of whom can be reached at (602) 542-4061.

Technology - Gary Irish indicated that there was currently no chair for the Technology subcommittee but that Robert MacArthur, of the University of Arizona, had volunteered to serve as a temporary chair until the conference was over.

Mr. Irish expressed hope that the conference might generate renewed interest in the area of technology. He added that AGIC should pay close attention to what is going on in this area. Significant accomplishments have been made recently, producing greater opportunities than ever before.

U.S./MEXICO BORDER PROJECT - Ken Osborn, of the U.S. Department of the Interior (USDI, aka DOI), distributed handouts on the Transboundary Resource Inventory Project (TRIP) and a related invitation to participate in an aerial photographic initiative. He also circulated books relating to a meeting on aerial photography and available data along the U.S./Mexico border.

Essentially, in dealing with air quality, water quality, and other environmental issues, the USDI and other agencies, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Forest Service, found that there is a great need for current imagery covering a 200-mile buffer zone along the U.S./Mexico border. Most of the existing data sets are old and stop at the border. Much of the data is also classified, severely restricting access.

The situation affects other entities, too. Texas, for example, is very interested in TRIP because it has a considerable amount of State land bordering Mexico. Although there is very little federal land along the Texas border, there are a significant number of federal holdings along the remainder of the U.S./Mexico border; so they, as well as other state and local agencies, also have an interest in what happens.

Even the Whitehouse is now involved. A Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) was established, and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), within the USDI, was asked to convene a meeting of all federal agencies, including the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the EPA, Customs, and the Department of State, to coordinate activities. In the first phase, an inventory

of all existing data will be developed and presented to the CEQ through the USGS. The second phase will involve a binational committee, to be chaired by Mr. Osborn. This group's mission will be to provide coordination and promote participation. Some funds are available through the EPA, but additional funding will also be needed.

Meanwhile, negotiations have been underway for some time now regarding an El Paso/Juarez pilot project to provide aerial photographs from which digital orthophotographs can be produced. Remaining sections of the U.S./Mexico border will probably be performed through contracts with U.S. companies, preferably within one year's time. Many details, including data structure, forms, classifications, and languages, have already been worked out. Organizers also hope to obtain clearance for pilots to fly across the border, thereby providing maximum coverage.

As a member of the steering group for TRIP and as a newly appointed manager for elevation issues, Mr. Osborn said it is part of his duty to elicit as much participation as possible from the states and agencies that will benefit from these efforts.

His intention is to use approximately \$2 million in funds available through a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) program as leverage to help secure greater financial participation. At this point, however, his primary objective is not so much to solicit funds as to make the states and other entities aware of what is going on.

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA GIS RURAL OUTREACH PROGRAM - Malcolm Zwolinsky, Associate Director of the School of Renewable Natural Resources at the University of Arizona, explained a decision package being submitted to the University Administration and requested a letter of support/approval from AGIC.

The purpose of the decision package is to establish a GIS outreach program for rural communities in Arizona. If approved, initial start-up costs would total about \$300,000. The remainder of the approximately \$720,000 requested would cover the first year's operating expenses. The Advanced Resource Technology (ART) program within the University's School of Renewable Natural Resources already helps many agencies with GIS issues but is not currently equipped to handle this outreach effort. Consequently, the additional funds will provide the resources necessary to offer GIS training to personnel from the University's cooperative extension service offices. They can then share what they have learned with members of

their local communities. Workshops will also be held regularly each year to reinforce and update what has been taught.

In response to concerns about potential competition with the private sector, an explanation was provided that the intention is not to compete with the private sector but to expose people to GIS, give them some idea of what types of data are available through the public sector, and better prepare them to ask the right questions so that they can make informed decisions when hiring staff and acquiring equipment and software to fulfill their GIS needs. Private groups will still be very much involved in establishing data bases and supplying the actual hardware and software required.

Among the other factors questioned during the presentation were the advisability of starting with a full-scale program, the concept of democratization, and concerns about duplication of effort. To avoid duplication, Board members strongly advised linking the University program to existing GIS training options, including those offered through Federal Highways Administration, the ALRIS program at the State Land Department, and Arizona Department of Commerce. Desires for more detailed information and close coordination with AGIC were also conveyed.

Confirmation was given that AGIC's letter of endorsement would be needed within the next week or two. Consequently, noting that there appeared to be consensus on democratization of GIS and some other key points, Lynn Larson offered a motion in favor of preparing a letter to the effect that, given the information presented, AGIC agrees that education is a useful tool and supports the decision package with the following conditions: (1) The program must be linked with other programs already offered in the state to avoid any duplication of effort. (2) There must be no competition with the private sector. The motion passed unanimously, having been seconded by Robert Vaughan; so Chris English agreed to prepare a draft letter and transmit copies to all Board members by facsimile within the next few days to allow everyone time to review and comment.

In closing, Mr. English hinted that any potential link with the statewide telecommunications effort currently underway at the Governor's level could prove advantageous, and Robert Vaughan requested that, in the future, Board members be given information ahead of time for any agenda items requiring decisions.

MAGIC '95 CONFERENCE - With respect to review of the subcommittee draft presentations, Gene Trobia reminded the subcommittee chairs to get any revisions, including tables for the agenda and strategic assessment, to Michael Collins by July 27. He said the only change that was discussed by the Strategic Planning Committee that morning was creation of a list of those things that have already been accomplished.

Sally Lanier indicated that she and those working with her were struggling to get everything done in time for the conference.

The original intention was to provide handouts in each area, but she noted that this might not be possible at the rate things were going.

Chris English asked how much, if anything, AGIC might be willing to pay someone to come as a keynote speaker for the conference. Sally Lanier said AGIC already had a nice complimentary room at the hotel that could, if necessary, be used for the keynote speaker. She added that AGIC did not have to face this issue last time because Nancy Tosta, the keynote speaker for MAGIC '93, was able to get her expenses covered as part of her job. Steve Foley moved that total expenses associated with the keynote speaker be limited to \$1,500. Dwight Curtiss seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

NSGIC REPRESENTATION - Gary Irish distributed handouts and explained that, in the past, AGIC has appropriated funds for the President of its Executive Management Board (or a substitute) to attend the annual conference of the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC). The topic was discussed at length during the May Board meeting, but there was no quorum; so no vote could be taken. The cost to send someone this year would be \$400 plus per diem. Robert Vaughan moved that AGIC allocate up to \$1,200 to send the current President of AGIC's Executive Management Board (Chris English) to the 1995 Annual Conference. The motion was seconded by Joan Laurence and passed unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS - Notice was given that AGIC would soon be electing a new Vice President for the year starting October 1, 1995. Anyone interested in serving in this capacity was instructed to send a resume to Lynn Larson [at Arizona State Land Department, 1616 W. Adams Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007 or via FAX (602) 542-2590].

CALL TO PUBLIC - No additional comments were offered at this point.

NEXT MEETING - Mr. English announced that the next Board meeting is scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday,

September 7 at the same location (large conference room, basement, 1600 W. Monroe, Phoenix).

A motion from Joan

Laurence in favor of adjourning was seconded by Lee Dexter and implemented by Chris English at 3:47 p.m.